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§ 297. **A New Hawaiian Fern.—*Hymenophyllum Baldwinii*.**

—Subspithamæum : frondibus lanceolatis vel ovato-lanceolatis læte viridibus tenerrimis bi-tripinnatifidis; pinnis primariis oblique-divergentibus plerumque rachi anguste alatae adnatis inferioribus solutis; pinnulis simplicibus vel in segmentis paucis oblongis obtusis emarginatisve margine integerrimis nudis divisis; segmentis infimis cujusdam pinnulæ abbreviatis apice soriferis; involucris subrotundis fere ad basin usque brevem alatum bilobis, lobis integerrimis, receptaculo columnari; stipite brevi rachique basin versus pilis rufis subulatis hispidis.

Abundant in a little valley in Oahu, at 2,500 feet above the sea; Hon. D. D. Baldwin, 1878. The rhizoma may be elongated and creeping, but having seen only the ends of rhizomes bearing half a dozen clustered fronds, I am unable to say whether it is long or short. The fronds are from three to six inches long, the shorter ones lanceolate and bi-pinnatifid, the larger ones ovate-lanceolate and tri-pinnatifid. The very short and hirsute or hispid stalks, and the shorter and more delicately membranaceous segments will easily distinguish it from *H. recurvum*. *H. scabrum*, of New Zealand, is a larger and coarser plant, and has the hairs of the stalk heavier and composed of very short articulations, while in *H. Baldwinii* the hairs have very long joints, and taper from a slightly swollen base to a long and very delicate point. I take pleasure in naming it for a gentleman who has shown great interest in the cryptogamic vegetation of the Hawaiian Islands.

Mr. Baldwin has also sent specimens of *Trichomanes pyxidiferum*, Linn., a species which is, I believe, new to the Hawaiian Islands. He reports that it is abundant in certain localities in Maui. **D.C.F.**

§ 298. **A few notes on the abnormal absence of color in plants.**—In the few observations which follow, it is not expected that anything new will be found; the object is more to call attention to a few facts which seems to have been generally passed over in botanical researches as devoid of interest. The whole subject arranges itself under two heads. The first will comprise true "albinos," or such plants as have spontaneously, in a state of nature, lost their colors and become white flowered. The second relates to those plants in which the colors have been more or less eliminated by artificial means.

First then, we have to consider those "sports" of nature where there has been a sudden change, without any intermediate steps, from a plant with colored flowers to a pure white variety; which change, for want of a better term, we call "spontaneous." Such may be aptly termed "negative" varieties, since their peculiarity is due rather to an *absence* of their normal color, than to the *presence* of white.

It is nothing uncommon to see, in many species, a gradual change from a brightly colored individual, through successive lighter and lighter ones, until a pure white is reached. This may be seen very well in *Hepatica triloba*, which comprises individuals